

REMARKS

All of the claims of the application have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0071627 (Smith) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0154855 (Rose).

The claims of the application have been amended to overcome the objections of the Examiner and to better define the invention in light of the prior art. In particular, independent claims 1, 8 and 12 have been amended to clarify that a single reflector with optical power is used to redirect the input and output beams of light back and forth through the other elements of the combination. This feature is both novel and non-obvious. The Smith et al reference requires two separate lenses 68 and 74, as well as a separate mirror 86, to direct the light throughout the device. Moreover, the device disclosed in the Smith et al reference requires an array of mirrors that are tiltable about two axes, whereas the device of the present invention only requires mirrors tiltable about a single axis in the plane of the dispersion plane (claims 4 and 8), which greatly reduces the cost and complexity of the device. The particular advantage to using a single reflector according to the present invention is that the sub-beams angularly dispersed from the dispersion element are reflected back to the actuation array along spatially separated parallel paths (Fig 4A), whereby the actuation array can reflect the sub-beams back to the reflector in a plane perpendicular to the dispersion plane. This greatly simplifies the type and the control of the mirrors required, and eliminates any complex three-dimensional angular aligning.

Claims 14 to 20 have been cancelled.

The title of the application has been changed to the more descriptive "Wavelength Switch".

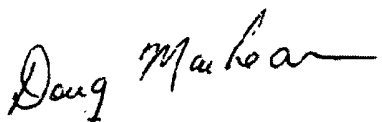
As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully,



Doug MacLean
Regn No: 48,096

Customer No: 24949

c/o Doug MacLean
Teitelbaum & MacLean
Patent Agent
For JDS Uniphase Corporation
3000 Merivale Road
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K2G 6N7

Tel: (613) 843-3000 Ext. 1192
Fax: (613) 823 9957
Email: doug.maclean@jdsu.com

DJM/ewg